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Review of the Work Programme of the Standing Committee on ECDC, with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

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Abbreviations

APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Area
ATFP	Arab Trade Financing Programme
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the OECD
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central Asian States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EPZ	export processing zone
EU	European Union
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GSPA	Global Scheme of Payments Arrangements
LAIA	Latin American Integration Association
MASSA	Malaysia South-South Association
MASSCORP	Malaysia South-South Corporation
Mercosur	Southern Cone Market: grouping comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, established on 1 January 1995
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Area
NIEs	Newly Industrialized Economies
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Committee
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TNC	transnational corporation
WTO	World Trade Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

INTRODUCTION

1. The Cartagena Commitment, in its part V on "Economic cooperation among developing countries", conceived the role of ECDC "as a means of securing the integration of developing countries into the world economy and of increasing their capacity to produce, achieve economies of scale and become internationally competitive". 1/ At the institutional level, UNCTAD VIII agreed that the existing Committees of the Board should be suspended and that new standing committees, including one on economic cooperation among developing countries, be established. 2/ Thereafter, the Trade and Development Board, at its first session following UNCTAD VIII, established a Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries with its terms of reference. 3/ The Committee established its own work programme at its first session (11 to 15 January 1993), and the present report is intended to assist the third session of the Standing Committee on ECDC to review its work programme while giving special emphasis to the preparations for UNCTAD IX.

2. It may be recalled that the eighth Conference, in establishing the various Committees, directed that "immediately prior to UNCTAD IX, the Board will review the functioning of its Committees with a view to making recommendations concerning them to the Conference". 4/ The deliberations of the third session of the Standing Committee under this agenda item will consequently be submitted to the Trade and Development Board for its consideration and onward transmission, as appropriate, to the next Conference.

I. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECDC

A. Establishment of the work programme

3. The Standing Committee on ECDC, at its first session (11 to 15 January 1993), established its own work programme with the following components: (i) promotion and expanding trade among developing countries; (ii) encouraging enterprise cooperation; (iii) regular consultations; (iv) strengthening subregional and regional integration and fostering interregional cooperation; (v) enlarging and deepening monetary, financial and investment cooperation; and, (vi) review of technical support, assistance and skill development. The first session also decided that review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support assistance and skill development (item 4 of the agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee) "would remain a permanent feature on the Standing Committee's agenda". 5/

4. To deal with regular consultations (item (iii) above), it was stated at that session that:

> "The Standing Committee will make the necessary arrangements for a pragmatic policy dialogue among the donor community, subregional, regional and interregional groupings as well as participants in ECDC programmes and projects with a view, in particular, to mobilizing support for designing and implementing regional initiatives, interregional activities and networking of integration and cooperation schemes". 6/

Concerning the manner in which arrangements for regular consultations might be conducted between the first and second sessions, the Committee established an "intergovernmental Group of Experts to hold consultations with interregional, regional and subregional groupings" with a view to collecting relevant information from donors and ECDC actors (recipients) and requested the second session of the Committee to review the report of the intergovernmental consultations, with a view to identifying programmes, projects and measures for international support. 7/

B. Allocation of the work programme

5. The second session of the Standing Committee (14-18 November 1994) took up item (i) relating to "promotion and expansion of trade among developing countries" and item (iv) on "strengthening subregional and regional integration and fostering interregional cooperation" from the above-mentioned work programme, while the remaining items were allocated to the third session of the Standing Committee. In anticipation of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the coming into being of the new World Trade Organization, the Second Committee also took up for discussion the topic of the impact of the Uruguay Round on ECDC. However, since this issue could not be thoroughly discussed during the second session, the third session of the Standing Committee is also expected to deliberate on "the implications of the Uruguay Round results on ECDC arrangements" under item 4 of its provisional agenda.

6. In addition, the Standing Committee at its third session has the task of conducting a "Review of the Work Programme of the Standing Committee, with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX".

II. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

7. At its different sessions, the Standing Committee, as a policy-making intergovernmental body, has reviewed, monitored and directed the work programme. On the other hand, the UNCTAD secretariat has been implementing the work programme through studies, research work, advisory missions, seminars, correspondence, technical assistance and other suitable means. The following paragraphs provide a status report on the activities of the intergovernmental machinery and of the UNCTAD secretariat respectively.

A. Intergovernmental level

8. After the establishment of the work programme referred to in paragraph 3 above, the Standing Committee met at its second session in November 1994. Its third session, in June 1995, will be its last before UNCTAD IX.

9. At the second session, the Standing Committee deliberated on: (a) strengthening subregional and regional integration and fostering interregional cooperation, as well as promotion and expansion of trade among developing countries (paras. 5 and 2 of the work programme); and, (b) review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support, assistance and skill development (paras. 4 and 7 of the work programme). At its third session (June 1995), the Standing Committee has before it the following two substantive agenda items: "Enlarging and deepening monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries and promoting cooperation of the enterprise sectors of developing countries" (agenda item 3); "Evaluation

of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including implications of the Uruguay Round results on ECDC arrangements and regular consultations, technical support, assistance and skill development" (agenda item 4). The Committee has been provided with secretariat reports on each of these topics. 8/

10. All the substantive components of the work programme, excepting "Regular consultations", will thus have been dealt with directly by the Standing Committee. However, for "Regular consultations", the Standing Committee established an Intergovernmental Group of Experts (27 June to 1 July 1994), whose conclusions and recommendations were later endorsed at the second session of the Standing Committee (November 1994). 9/ The decisions of the Committee at its second session and those that may be taken at its third session will raise numerous substantive and policy issues in various areas which can serve as a basis for the future orientation and work programme of both the Committee and the secretariat (see chap. IV below).

B. Secretariat level

1. Documents submitted by the secretariat to the Standing Committee

11. The UNCTAD secretariat, firstly in assisting the Committee to establish the work programme and later in its implementation, provided eight policy documents and seven other background documents. It also provided three reports to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (see annex, section A). In addition, several other documents prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat (see annex, section B) were made available to the Committee and Governments.

2. Meetings and seminars serviced by the secretariat

12. The secretariat also serviced, organized or co-organized, inter alia, the following meetings and seminars: (i) eighth session of the Coordination Committee on Multilateral Payments Arrangements and Monetary Cooperation among Developing Countries (February-March 1994, Santa Cruz); (ii) Second Conference of Governments and Senior Officials of Central Banks of Latin American and African Countries (March 1994, Santa Cruz); (iii) first meeting of the Follow-up Committee to the above Conference (October 1994, Madrid); (iv) Seminar on ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) (June 1993, Jakarta); (v) Seminar on the Promotion of Trade between African and Arab Countries (October 1993); (vi) the Asian-Pacific Regional Workshop on R & D Community - Enterprise Cooperation in Technological Research and Commercialization/Application of Results (November 1994, New Delhi); (vii) Ministerial Meeting on Latin American Dialogue on the Pacific Basin (Bogotà, June 1995).

3. Advisory missions

13. Advisory missions were sent, inter alia, to the OAU Permanent Steering Committee Meeting (April 1993), the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (December 1993 and February 1994), the Eighth Joint ECA/UNDP/African IGOs/UN Meeting (April 1994), the Central American Integration System (SICA) Headquarters, San Salvador (July 1993); to do country studies on Venezuela, Malaysia and Zimbabwe (July to August 1994); and to the annual meeting of the Asian Clearing Union (Dacca, August 1993), to UNDP-AFTP Preparatory Meeting (Abu Dhabi, December 1993); and the Expert Group Meeting of the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation on Countertrade (Tunis, December 1994).

4. Technical assistance

14. UNCTAD provided technical assistance and analytical work to different groupings on request or under specific projects. 10/ Assistance rendered to ECOWAS and ECCAS involved consultant studies on issues such as the use of member States' currencies in intra-group trade, regional capital markets, common external tariffs, and compensation for loss of fiscal revenue resulting from the implementation of intra-regional trade liberalization programmes. In the Asian region, UNCTAD provided issue papers on different themes of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), including free trade areas, the GATT Enabling clause and GATT Article XXIV, AFTA and the ASEAN secretariat, AFTA and EEC and NAFTA. Similarly, UNCTAD assisted the process of the enlargement of the Bangkok Agreement by providing data and statistics for:

(a) Identifying products of export interest to its existing members (Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka) and prospective members (Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan);

(b) Trade flows of the above-mentioned identified products;

(c) Data on trade control measures applied by the member States in respect of the identified products. In 1994, Papua New Guinea joined the Bangkok Agreement, while China has announced its intention to join.

UNCTAD also provides inputs and contributes to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and other interregional and regional groupings, such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the League of Arab States. During the period under review, a general meeting between the United Nations and the OIC was held for the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 11/ for which UNCTAD was a focal point on the priority area of "development of trade". Similarly, UNCTAD provided inputs on "development of trade" for inclusion in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly. The work covered provision of trade data, organizing seminars in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), and advisory missions to OIC countries.

15. The preceding and other aspects of the secretariat's work programme and activities were also reflected in the relevant United Nations medium-term plan (1992-1997) and programme budgets for the biennium 1992-1993 and 1994-1995.

III. NEW PERSPECTIVES RELEVANT TO THE ECDC WORK PROGRAMME

16. Recent global economic changes have provided new challenges and prospects which cast ECDC in a new light. Developing countries, responding to the changed trading and economic environment, have also taken new initiatives to provide new directions and priorities to the ECDC process. Some of those moves have taken place within the United Nations framework, others outside it. Even among the developed countries, the trend to support South-South cooperation is gaining momentum. A description and discussion of those aspects in this chapter is intended to serve as background to the proposals for the future orientation of the ECDC work programme in chapter IV.

A. Globalization, liberalization and ECDC

17. Over the past decade, and in particular over the past half-a-dozen years, the world has witnessed a trend towards more globalization in all the major areas of the world economy accompanied by significant liberalization in most economies and a trend towards increased cooperation between groups of countries at both similar and different levels of development. The first trend is manifest in the tremendous increase in international financial flows of all types and the increased integration of all segments of financial markets as a result of the twin factors of increased globalization of finance and increased liberalization of national financial markets. Similarly, the increased importance of transnational enterprises as a result of their increased dynamism and large market shares and the liberalization of many sectors in national economies has globalized important decisions on production, investment and the application of technology.

18. Developing countries have been multiplying their efforts and have shown increased political commitment to integration and various forms of ECDC. UNCTAD has had the occasion of reviewing such developments in previous sessions of the Committee and in the documentation prepared by the secretariat. 12/ The increased emphasis given to ECDC, especially at the regional and subregional levels, does not seem to be dictated mainly by considerations of political economy, but by an objective judgement that ECDC is an instrument for developing countries to increase their participation in the world economy. The question therefore arises as to how the increased globalization of the world economy can be compatible with the increased emphasis placed on ECDC, especially regionally, even among countries at various development levels. At a more general level, it can be asked how ECDC fits into the increasingly globalized and liberalized world economy of the second half of the 1990s.

19. There are objective reasons which might explain the economic rationale for this manifest choice of developing countries and perhaps shed light on the extent of the compatibility between globalism and ECDC. To begin with, the vast majority of developing countries have small economies, and even the biggest among them are relatively small by world standards. Such economies can be internationally competitive if they specialize in certain sectors and if they can participate in intra-industry trade flows, which are usually dominated by transnational firms. The first condition would obtain only for a few countries at a time, and the second is not usually the case for developing country firms. Hence, this option is not realistic for the trading strategies of the overwhelming majority of developing countries. To attain viable competitivity in the oligopolistic markets of international trade, developing countries have to accrue scale economies of all three types: internal, external and dynamic (see box). They will have to acquire and adapt appropriate technologies, attract the necessary foreign investment in non-debt-creating forms and pool their human and physical resources whenever possible.

20. Open and flexible ECDC serves to influence positively the expectations of investors, whether foreign or from within the group in question. In recent years, foreign investment, especially private direct foreign investment, has been a main engine for globalization, and at the same time, it has been an avenue for entering intra-industry networks, thereby increasing intra-industry

trade. By reducing all kinds of barriers and improving infrastructural links, open ECDC should reduce the costs of doing business and further improve competitiveness.

21. In recent years ECDC has been a mobilizing factor in the harmonization of economic policies, regulations and standards. If most of the groupings within their integration instruments include the same rules, procedures, standards and practices in line with those evolved in the Uruguay Round, then product standards, rules governing establishment of businesses and environmental regulations tend to become building blocks toward participation in the global economy. The same obtains when rules governing dispute settlement, anti-dumping measures and safeguard provisions are modelled on the WTO standards. In the process, ECDC ensures clarity, transparency and international standardization of rules and guarantees against all uncertainties, thereby increasing stability. Hence, it can be reasonably concluded that ECDC provides a natural bridge to effective participation in the global economy, and for the small developing countries it might furnish the only means to do so.

Analytic demonstration of the relationship between types of economies of scale and ECDC

Static internal scale economies, manifest in declining average costs in large-scale automated plants producing homogeneous products, have historically been associated with manufactures. This type of scale economies can also be in the form of product specialization resulting in comparative cost advantages. While such static scale economies figured prominently in the now discarded import-substitution strategies of the 1960s, export promotion strategies in liberalized trade-regimes provide compelling arguments for intra-developing-country trade. This is observed by the high capital intensity and large-scale nature of products traded among developing countries, especially countries of different sizes.

Internal scale economies can also be associated with product differentiation which is viable for both small and large developing economies. As a contemporary phenomenon, they have been associated with subcontracting to transnational firms of decentralized production. Empirical evidence suggests that such intra-industry flows predominate in countries of similar levels of development. Aside from the transnational trade circuit, this trade among developing countries, by promoting specialization, is trade-creating in both types of products, intermediary and final. And such production capabilities not only increase the symmetry of benefits of South-South trade, but might also have a dynamic effect in promoting the creation and expansion of developing country transnationals through business alliances.

External economies are associated with cross-sectoral complementarities and forward-backward linkages generated by input-output relationships. They are however not limited to production; they extend to marketing and management methods as well, and they accrue to both primary-commodity and manufactures trade. Such economies are at the heart of important political economy considerations underscoring many developing countries' policies aiming at acquiring an appropriate share of production capabilities and thereby securing development and growth via specific industries making for growth poles in the economy. This was very clear in the experience of successful traders in the new industrializing countries in East and South Asia. When sectoral experiences are transferable across the economy they cause what Myrdal called macro-economic "cumulative causation". ECDC provides a more hospitable environment for this type of growth strategies than mere direct participation in the global economy which is driven by static efficiency considerations. If ECDC involves similarity in human resources development and cost structures, then such micro or macro sectoral effects are more likely to take place under ECDC than otherwise. Moreover, the acquisition of an appropriate or a fair share of production capabilities enhances the symmetry of benefits of trade and protects small countries against marginalization in the world economy, two important political economy considerations.

Dynamic economies of scale are associated, according to recent trade theory literature, with the accumulation of knowledge and adaptation of technology to fit the circumstances and experience of a developing country in technological applications, as well as generating endogenous technology. This is a part of "learning by doing". ECDC provides a less costly route for this learning process: developing country markets are more familiar to their firms than global markets and the costs involved in doing business are lower. The products generated by the technological adaptation, and indeed by endogenous technologies, are typically better suited to demand in these markets, which tend to have similar characteristics in countries at similar levels of development. The result is a dynamic interaction among the acquisition of technology, productivity increases and growth.

22. It is perhaps against this backdrop that the concept of "open and flexible ECDC" developed in this paper should be understood. This concept is more general than, but still close to, what has been called in Latin America "open regionalism". Its policy contents consist of wide-ranging liberalization in markets, sectors and composition of groupings. By not emphasizing geographic space and trying ad hoc and sectoral links, as appropriate, "open and flexible ECDC" emphasizes the concept of viable economic space. 13/

23. After the second session of the Standing Committee, the new World Trade Organization (WTO) was established on 1 January 1995 with wider scope and improved rules governing international trade in goods, services, investments and intellectual property. Virtually all aspects of merchandise trade and significant parts of trade in services have now been brought under a system based not only on comprehensive law and transparent rules and mechanisms, but also on the concept of market efficiency and reduced scope of national trade policy independence. The general trade liberalization and the overall openness in the global economy offers opportunities, as well as posing new challenges.

24. The process towards a global market, already set in motion by the advances in worldwide information and communication networks, will be substantially accelerated by general trade liberalization in the wake of the Uruguay Round. Global international competitiveness requires that a new dimension be added to the concept of ECDC and integration mechanisms to enable them to serve as vehicles towards a general openness. The conventional protective logic should be gradually receding to give way to open and flexible ECDC. The demands of the global market will impose a greater premium on global competitivity. The role of common standards, broad macro-level policy coordination, intra-investment, technology exchange, joint industrial and production programmes, and joint research information cooperation will assume greater importance. This is a highly challenging phase for the integration and cooperation process in the developing countries. The integration and cooperation process faces the multifaceted task of adjusting to the new demands of global trade liberalization, remaining consistent with the multilateral system, catering to the needs of less or least developed partners, and improving and coordinating integration in the fields of trade, finance, investments and technology. It has also to establish appropriate linkages with the North.

25. Some groupings of developing countries are adopting policies and mechanisms which could respond to and adequately meet the current and future challenges of globalization and liberalization. In that process, they are building linkages and bridges with the world economy. Thus, for instance, the policy of Mercosur is to maintain solid and balanced relations with the principal economic poles in the North (NAFTA, European Union, Japan, Asia). A similar pattern of relationships is witnessed in ASEAN's relations with the so-called "Northern poles of growth". Similarly, in keeping with the concepts of "viable economic space", a flexible approach towards membership of groupings is being advocated. Under such an approach, countries beyond the region, as well as developed countries, could be involved in the integration and cooperation process. Another pragmatic approach being evolved for ECDC is to set different speeds for cooperation and devise mechanisms which enable the various partners to fulfil their ECDC commitments despite their specific macroeconomic problems.

26. In the new trading and economic environment, the need for mobilization of resources for investments in industrialization, technology, communication, banking and capital markets has assumed a new priority. Resources of developing countries are limited, and the financial position of several of them is uncomfortable, if not precarious. The debt overhang, particularly in Africa, does not leave sufficient surpluses for intra-regional investment flows. The only countries having such a capability are the more advanced developing countries, particularly the NIEs and the ASEAN countries. The experience of the ASEAN developing countries, as pace setters in generating ECDC, is attributable in large measure to their ability to mobilize resources for intra-investments and to procure outside investments from their Northern development partners. This aspect of ECDC justifies learning from each other through sharing of experiences and cross-fertilization of ECDC processes and modalities. At the same time it confirms the need to dialogue with the North to obtain financial and technical support for launching various ECDC initiatives involving ECDC recipients and donors. In most cases, the outside support will be designed as "seed money" and in certain other cases as a catalyst to help the take-off of various ECDC initiatives.

B. Recent ECDC-related events of relevance to the future work programme of the Standing Committee

27. Developing countries have been advancing rapidly on the ECDC front in the belief that ECDC is a viable strategy both for development and for helping their economies to integrate into the competitive global economy. The revitalization of their integration process, which started in response to the emergence of the major trading blocks (NAFTA, APEC, European Union), has continued unabated while adding new dimensions, notably of linkages with the North. 14/ At the interregional level, the second round of negotiations for deepening and enlarging the Global System of Trade Preferences started recently. Also recently, an Asia-Africa Forum was held in Indonesia (12-16 December 1994) 15/ to strengthen South-South cooperative links and share experiences. The President of Indonesia, who is also the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, considered that South-South Cooperation is an endeavour for developing countries in the face of "the increasingly strong globalization and economic openness today". 16/

28. Important moves have also been made within the United Nations framework to strengthen ECDC. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, as a follow-up to the report of the South Commission, 17/ requested "the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive report entitled 'State of South-South Cooperation' containing quantitative data and indicators on all aspects of South-South Cooperation and to be prepared with the help of all relevant organizations of the United Nations, including in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)". 18/ Subsequently, on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary, the Group of 77, in a Ministerial Declaration, reaffirmed, inter alia, its "strong commitment to strengthen South-South Cooperation ...". It also established a "Joint Coordinating Committee" between the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement on South-South and North-South cooperation. 19/ Later on, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 calling for a United Nations-sponsored international conference on South-South Cooperation, inter alia, stated:

"The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to South-South Cooperation as a necessary and viable strategy for greater collective

self-reliance for national, regional and global development, and as a major mechanism for the promotion of growth and accelerated development. The dynamism introduced through such cooperation would also contribute to strengthening the world economy and restructuring of international economic relations. The United Nations system and the developed countries should support such cooperation, including through financial and technical assistance. To that end, the Ministers called upon the United Nations to consider convening an International Conference on South-South Cooperation in 1996". 20/

29. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly, in a subsequent resolution, while referring to the Secretary-General's report on "State of South-South Cooperation", inter alia requested the Secretary-General "to present to the Assembly at its fiftieth session a comprehensive overview and analysis of South-South cooperation worldwide entitled 'State of South-South Cooperation' and containing recommendations to strengthen such cooperation, keeping in view the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation". 21/ Within the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to convene an intergovernmental meeting of experts in New York in 1995. That meeting, with a view to expanding South-South cooperation on a global scale, is mandated to recommend "practical modalities and substantive issues to be taken into account by the Secretary-General" in undertaking the report on the "State of South-South Cooperation". In that process, it has to take into account the outcome, inter alia, of the third session of the Standing Committee on ECDC.

30. The developed countries are increasingly supporting South-South cooperation. For example, the DAC/World Bank/UNDP Seminar held in Paris in June 1994 also called for increased emphasis on South-South cooperation in the context of an overall strategy for improving the effectiveness of multilateral technical cooperation in the 1990s. Similarly, during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Japanese delegation, referred to South-South cooperation, through sharing of experience and technology among developing countries. He also informed the Assembly about Japan's intention to suggest concrete plans for the promotion of South-South cooperation around the globe. 22/

IV. ISSUES AND PROPOSALS FOR REORIENTATION OF THE ECDC WORK PROGRAMME

A. Issues identified at the second session of the Standing Committee on ECDC

31. In the context of the changed political and economic environment, at its second session the Standing Committee reviewed its work programme and decided to give "sharper focus to the work in a selected number of areas which hold the promise of having a significant impact on the economies of developing countries within a reasonable time span and, at the same time, of enabling the Committee to report more concrete achievements to the next Conference." 23/

32. Within the above selective approach, the Standing Committee identified the following specific areas: 24/

(a) "Special attention to measures for increasing the effectiveness of trade liberalization regimes in regional integration arrangements";

(b) "Dialogue and cooperation among developing countries to exchange experiences and provide mutual support and assistance in critical areas";

(c) Use of technical cooperation among developing countries as a mechanism for ECDC, including technical assistance "for assessing and implementing the Uruguay Round agreements";

(d) Ways and means of ensuring further "integration of the enterprise sector in ECDC processes";

(e) "Partnership dialogue" for discussing the role of developed countries and their institutions in the ECDC process and precise ways in which they can support ECDC initiative;

(f) Other issues:

- Undertaking "consultations with the regional development banks with a view to formulating and implementing a programme of technical and financial support of specific ECDC actions for trade financing";

- Exploring the "possibility of joint actions between the North and South in the areas of investment, production and marketing";

- Identifying "specific possibilities in the context of intra-regional cooperation measures in support of trade expansion, joint production, marketing, investment, technology, transport and communication".

B. Proposed future orientations for the work programme

33. The areas identified at the second session of the Committee, together with the outcome of the third session in the areas of monetary, financial and investment cooperation, as well as cooperation among the enterprises of developing countries, should serve as the basis for the future work programme on ECDC. To assist the Committee in setting the orientation of this programme, the considerations set out in the following paragraphs might be of help.

1. Regional integration and trade liberalization regimes

34. Bearing in mind the work of the regional economic commissions in their respective regions, UNCTAD should focus its attention on the global and interregional dimensions of ECDC and delve into specific sectoral areas such as trade, monetary and financial cooperation where it has expertise, accumulated experience and comparative advantage. For example, its perspective on regional integration and cooperation should be from the standpoint of consistency with broad international trends and developments with a view to suggesting strategies, policies, actions and options conducive to making such cooperation and integration a conduit and a building block towards more effective participation in the global economy. UNCTAD should put

at the service of interested countries and groupings its specialized expertise and conclusions drawn from comparative experiences to make open and flexible ECDC a means of participation in the global economy.

35. In addition, UNCTAD, upon request, could also initiate research, study or other actions on integration themes and requirements of specific region or grouping. UNCTAD's involvement on those issues will thereby become "demand-driven" in its areas of expertise.

36. UNCTAD should encourage different groupings to learn from each other's integration experiences. One phenomenon on which a comparative study could be made and from which lessons could be drawn is that of the process of interregional and international linkage which has recently gained momentum within some more advanced groupings like ASEAN and Mercosur. The European Union, during the second session of the Standing Committee on ECDC, cited examples of its "various cooperation initiatives with groupings of developing countries", and the "European Union's dialogue with Latin America, the Mediterranean Basin and Asia" as a "good institutional and financial framework for close interregional cooperation". 25/ Thus, a long-term interregional association and a framework agreement for mutual commercial and economic cooperation between Mercosur and the European Union is reportedly being worked out. Within the American continent, a linkage between Mercosur and NAFTA is also a distinct possibility. Moreover, Chile is interested in joining Mercosur and was also invited to adhere to NAFTA during the American Summit (11 December 1994, Miami), which will allow Chile to play a bridging role between the two groupings. 26/ Such examples and experiences have a good potential for study and transportation to other integration processes in selected regions and settings. The approach involving exchange of integration experiences was tried earlier in UNCTAD and was quite well received. A study on the integration experience of ASEAN was prepared, and one of its conclusions was that "the ASEAN integration process, as well as the national policies of its member countries, are seen to be highly instructive for other regional economic cooperation and integration groupings of developing countries". 27/

2. Dialogue and cooperation among developing countries to exchange experiences: Country-level ECDC

37. The exchange of experiences on ECDC has the potential to go beyond pure integration experiences. There are several ad hoc initiatives on ECDC, which, without being routed through any integration frameworks, have found success in informal settings involving a nucleus of interested developing countries. These are examples of "open and flexible ECDC". For instance, the Group of Fifteen 28/ is currently pursuing several ECDC projects based on the principle that "if a core group of countries are ready to initiate and implement joint action for mutual benefit, they should go ahead while making sure that their actions do not prejudice the basic interests of developing countries which are not yet ready to participate". 29/ Such projects are coordinated by a specified developing country. Currently 12 ECDC projects within this framework are being coordinated by several G.15 member countries.

38. Similarly, ECDC initiatives like the Malaysia South-South Association (MASSA) 30/ for promoting Malaysian trade and economic ties with the South

at the private sector level and its subsidiary consortium company, Malaysia South-South Corporation (MASSCORP), 31/ provide useful examples. MASSCORP has been successful in establishing several joint ventures in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Such a country experience could be instructive in engendering ECDC in the national policy strategies of other developing countries.

39. The "growth triangles" within ASEAN are yet another example to be emulated for the purpose of mobilizing surplus investments in specified border zones of adjoining countries.

3. Technical cooperation as a mechanism for ECDC, including technical assistance on implications of the Uruguay Round

40. Within the scope of technical cooperation as a mechanism for ECDC, the future work programme of the Committee could be built around the following possibilities:

(a) Some developing countries have their own TCDC technical cooperation programmes. For instance, in the past India, under its technical assistance programme, provided on-the-job-training to senior and middle-level State trading officials of English-speaking Africa within various Indian State trading organizations. This project was backstopped by UNCTAD. The Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) for developing countries is even more ambitious and wide-ranging. The working and performance of such TCDC efforts and initiatives could also be instructive for the Committee. They could also provide a basis to be followed in other more advanced developing countries which have either not yet allocated any technical and financial resources for ECDC/TCDC or have only rendered modest support to that process within their national strategies;

(b) Several integration groupings are currently studying the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round on their different integration instruments, on the preferences they have extended to each other and on the consistency of their schemes with the new international rules. Beyond that, as chapter II of document TD/B/CN.3/14 demonstrates, there are many issues which deserve political attention and substantive consideration by the developing countries in general and members of cooperation groupings in particular. Those issues include the questions of subsidies, dispute settlement, regional industrial policies and treatment of foreign investment. There are also issues that pertain to the representation of groupings in future negotiations. In all of those, UNCTAD, which has a long and established expertise in these domains, can extend an effective programme of technical assistance, at the request of interested members and groupings;

(c) UNCTAD could also, on request, provide advisory and research services on specific questions of conformity of the existing or forthcoming Customs unions, free trade areas and other similar special arrangements of developing countries with GATT's Enabling Clause or the provisions of Article XXIV. UNCTAD's approach in those matters would go beyond purely legalistic considerations of conformity to include developmental dimensions. 32/ Technical assistance under this item could assist members of groupings at the initial conception of preferential arrangements and later on for properly defending the consistency with GATT of these preferential

frameworks (Customs unions or free trade areas). This could enable those groupings to meet prospective objections, for example on: (i) erecting trade barriers additional to or above what existed prior to the formation of a free trade area; (ii) the adverse impact on MFN trade liberalization; or (iii) mutual conformity of the Common External Tariff (CET) and national tariff schedules.

4. Integration of the enterprise sector in ECDC processes

41. The need to ensure further integration of the enterprise sector in ECDC processes is an area in which UNCTAD's information base, contacts and potential need to be fully exploited. Under its current approach, UNCTAD has arranged interregional business contacts among enterprises involving African entrepreneurs on the one hand and Asian and Latin American entrepreneurs on the other. Similarly, progress is being made in preparing blueprints for interregional cooperation among entrepreneurs from export processing zones (EPZs) scattered in the different developing regions. UNCTAD could play a catalytic role in organizing direct contacts between enterprises of developing countries to formulate and implement programmes in various areas, including in particular:

- Acquiring shares in privatized enterprises;

- Joint investments in agricultural and industrial production and in building transport and communication infrastructures and in the services sector;

- Collaboration in TCDC through the provision of training by entrepreneurs from more advanced developing countries to the less advanced developing countries;

- Joint ventures in trading (goods and services) enterprises;

- Collaboration in R & D, and the adaptation and transformation of technology by the enterprises.

42. Given the comparative weakness of the African enterprise sector, the broad thrust of this component of ECDC should pay particular attention to creating greater linkages between African enterprises and the rest of the developing world in Asia and Latin America. This approach is recommended since most Asian and Latin American countries have their own information and business networks, while a number of African countries are well behind in that respect. By the same token, small- and medium-sized enterprises should be the first to be involved in this process.

43. Enterprise cooperation should envisage predominantly operational types of activities (seminars, business forums). Similarly, its TCDC component could emphasize training trainers in Africa to help start new businesses.

5. Partnership dialogue (regular consultations, Intergovernmental Group of Experts)

44. Under the heading of "Partnership dialogue", at its second session the Standing Committee endorsed the agreed conclusions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, and recommended their implementation. 33/ Those recommendations have provided a wide range of issues to be covered by donor-recipient dialogue in the future, including, inter alia, the following:

(a) Broad areas and directions which the dialogue should focus on such as exchange of integration experiences, 34/ structural adjustment issues, national capacity-building for ECDC;

(b) Need to establish linkages and cooperation between UNCTAD and DAC, the United Nations regional commissions, and other international and regional organizations in supporting and technically back-stopping the dialogue;

(c) Specific and priority areas and programmes having better prospects for international support, such as "open and flexible ECDC" and recent moves towards open regionalism making South-South cooperation increasingly attractive for international support, interregional dialogue, and involvement of private-sector investment projects. 35/

45. The Committee is provided with an inventory of suggestions in document TD/B/CN.3/14, paragraph 61, whereby "regular consultations" could operationalize the pragmatic policy dialogue among concerned participants. The dialogue could also benefit from the existing experience in ASEAN, an example of successful dialogue partnership. Similarly, SADCC's dialogue relationship is another successful example to be emulated.

46. The regular consultations could be greatly enhanced if the dialogue results in outcomes such as the following:

(a) Concrete donor support and commitments for specific ECDC projects and programmes;

(b) A process of improvement in the development assistance programmes of the donors;

(c) A process of prioritization and rationalization of ECDC projects and programmes seeking support.

Such an approach would give the process credibility in the eyes of the developing countries and their ECDC actors (recipients), which would ensure the active attention and participation of potential ECDC entities in this effort.

6. Monetary and financial cooperation

(a) Work towards a global scheme of payment arrangements among developing countries (GSPA)

47. The theme of monetary, financial and investment cooperation is being dealt with comprehensively under agenda item 3. 36/ The present ECDC work programme on monetary and financial cooperation has now reached the point from where it should take off towards operational frameworks for cooperation. Developing countries are keener and keener to see the tangible results of those efforts.

48. The approach adopted in the GSTP in the trade field provides a good example for the financial field. One of the reasons for the success of the GSTP was the simple approach of reciprocal bilateral agreements which are extended multilaterally to all GSTP participating countries. In the financial field, a similar initiative was taken by the Group of 15 at Kuala Lumpur in June 1990. The Group agreed to establish "a financial mechanism for the promotion of trade among South countries" in two stages. Stage one consisted of "bilateral payments arrangements between pairs of countries", while the second stage envisaged multilateralization of those bilateral payments arrangements, thereby establishing "a multilateral interregional payment system". 37/ LAIA has also set out a scheme to multilateralize existing bilateral payment arrangements, and this furnishes a model that can be used in this process.

49. Since bilateral payment arrangements are already widely used by developing countries to provide bilateral financial supportive mechanisms for engendering and promoting their mutual trade, there is a good case for their multilateralization. Their cumulative effect has the advantage of broadening the canvas of intra-settlements and mutual offsets of debits and credits.

50. In such a content, UNCTAD's future work programme could be geared towards supporting the establishment of a global scheme of payment arrangements among developing countries (GSPA). This will involve technical studies and a substantial degree of preparatory work, in collaboration with Governments and their central banks.

51. Similarly, with the aim of involving regional development banks along with UNCTAD in promoting South-South trade finance, a list of recommendations on possible joint undertakings aiming at promoting, inter alia, interregional trade finance availability is presented in document TD/B/CN.3/13. Moreover, that document provides suggestions on technical assistance to existing developing country facilities using the expertise of UNCTAD and the regional banks in this domain (see paras. 41 to 44).

(b) Capital markets: analysis, comparison, policy guidelines

52. In capital market cooperation, an element of operational activities deserves to be included. This could be achieved by doing pilot country and regional studies on the feasibility and modalities of such cooperation. This could also become a basis for other developing countries in restructuring and re-orientating their own policies on capital markets. Inter-country seminars

and workshops could identify suitable policy guidelines and options for developing this cooperation, as well as promoting the efficacy of capital markets. The involvement of regional development banks and other relevant international financial institutions would be an important factor in the success of such an approach.

(c) Macro-economic coordination

53. Last but not least, future work in this sector should be supportive of broad macro-economic coordination of monetary and financial policies of developing countries. That aspect, as yet missing, should be evolved in collaboration with the existing IMF/World Bank G-24 machinery and the WTO.

7. New issues for the ECDC agenda

(a) The special situation of Africa and economies in transition within ECDC

54. The process of globalization is essentially based on industrial manufactures, advances in technology, and improvement of information networks which are either lacking or rudimentary in most of Africa. The trend towards the creation of large regional economic spaces and vast free-trade zones, and the concentration of world trade in some countries to the exclusion particularly of the poorest countries has raised apprehensions about such exclusion and pointed to the need for concrete steps to be taken on a priority basis. Africa as a region might move deeper and deeper into marginalization, and in designing a South-South cooperation strategy special attention needs to be given to sub-Saharan Africa to enable it to play a greater role in the world economy.

55. The overall levels of industrial production in African countries have diminished in the last 15 years and their share in manufacturing value added decreased significantly by an annual rate of -2.4 per cent between 1975 and 1987 and -0.3 per cent between 1985 and 1992. Their industrial tissue has thus significantly deteriorated. 38/ For Africa, to be involved in the process of globalization, it needs to be helped to industrialize and as appropriate to process its commodities and raw materials into industrial manufactures. In that process, open and flexible ECDC has a critical role to play, given the small size of the African economies, as a strategy of growth and development to achieve economic viability. An effective response for Africa would be to carry out community projects based on geographic or other forms of proximity and to support all joint institutions which have a potential, particularly in stimulating production for national and intra-regional trade, as well as improving competitiveness, in general, of African interregional exports.

56. The most diversified economy in Africa, namely South Africa, could not play its potentially dynamic role in energising and advancing the neighbouring African economies during the apartheid period. Post-apartheid South Africa could generate growth impulses and spearhead the process of industrialization, growth and restructuring in the rest of the African economies. For Southern Africa, and to a lesser extent Central and East Africa, South Africa could be a locomotive for the advancement and development of the countries of these subregions - as indeed is already the case for Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and

Swaziland - by cooperating in such fields as transportation, power, water, telecommunications, human and animal health and technological research, etc. The impact of such a role for South Africa might not be very strong initially due to the need for South Africa to address domestic issues urgently, in particular, extending the benefits of the modern economy into South Africa's peripheral areas. Of course a vibrant regional economy/market would facilitate South Africa's domestic endeavours, since the countries concerned also provide market outlets for South Africa's manufactured goods. However, this does not mean that the task of stimulating and generating growth in Africa and redressing its economic marginalization could be left to developing countries alone, much less to South Africa. African problems are of immense magnitude and require concerted effort on the part of the entire global community.

57. Africa, more than any other developing region, needs agricultural growth and industrialization, investment, technology transfer, human resources development, marketing capabilities, commodity diversification programmes, and information-based technology and training. In working out sectoral or multisectoral programmes and projects for the development of sub-Saharan African countries, the developed countries and the relevant international organizations and financial institutions should, inter alia, adopt South-South cooperation as a modality and means to achieve those projects. On the other hand, different ECDC programmes designed by developing countries in partnership with the sub-Saharan African economies should be lent financial and other types of support and assistance from developed donors and international financial institutions. In so far as African needs in the areas of economic integration are concerned, intensification of work is recommended on these priority areas: strengthening regional infrastructures, transit facilities, transport and communications, support for structural adjustment programmes at a subregional level, harmonization of policies, enhancing the role of the private sector and human resource development.

58. Developing economies in transition, including Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia, also need to be separately mentioned. The location of the latter countries in South-East Asia has enabled them to cultivate certain South-South linkages. Asian NIEs, the ASEAN "growth triangle", and South-West China, with their more advanced levels of industry, provide ample basis for economic and technological cooperation. Most of the other developing economies in transition (e.g. the Central Asian countries), like the African countries, had vertical integrative linkages with the North. Their problems are both developmental and systemic, for both of which they require assistance. Some of their developmental problems could be solved through injection of FDI from all sources, including developing countries in a position to do so. In that respect, however, their immediate neighbours lack sufficient surpluses to invest in them, which leaves an important role to be played by the more advanced developing countries (e.g. the ASEAN countries and NIEs). To deal with their systemic problems, a programme of technical assistance will need to be evolved based, inter alia, on exchange of experiences with other developing countries. They could thereby learn to develop new legal infrastructures and institutional set-ups in consonance with the new requirements of a market economy.

(b) Involvement of NGOs and the private sector in ECDC

59. The process of liberalization and the receding role of the public and state sector in the economies of developing countries requires the well thought-out and planned involvement of the non-governmental and private sector in giving new contours to the future process of ECDC. The current purely intergovernmental framework of discussions on ECDC issues has to be broadened to allow for the participation of non-governmental ECDC actors. That in itself, in the course of time, should assist in reorienting and refocusing the ECDC agenda. The private sector is already involved in many integration arrangements (ASEAN, SAARC, ECO). At the UNCTAD level, the participation of NGOs and the private sector in the ECDC process at the level of the Standing Committee or its subsidiary bodies also needs to be reflected upon.

60. The foremost ECDC issues in which the participation of the private sector and NGOs is justified are enterprise cooperation and the "regular consultation". To facilitate the launching of these processes, new channels of communication between UNCTAD on the one hand and NGOs and other private sector interest groups on the other also deserve to be established.

Notes

1/ See TD/364 (Report of UNCTAD VIII), part one, sect. A, para. 229.

2/ Ibid., para. 70.

3/ Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII).

4/ See TD/364, part one, sect. A, para. 76.

5/ See "Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries on its first session" (TD/B/39(2)/16-TD/B/CN.3/5), para. 40.

6/ Ibid., annex II, para. 4.

7/ Ibid, para. 42.

8/ See document TD/B/CN.3/13 on agenda item 3 and document TD/B/CN.3/14 on agenda item 4.

9/ See also document TD/B/CN.3/14; for a detailed discussion on "Regular consultations", see chapter III of that document.

10/ See TD/B/CN.3/14.

11/ General Assembly resolution 47/18 of 23 November 1993 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

12/ TD/B/CN.3/8, and TD/B/CN.3/9 presented to the second session; TD/B/CN.3/3, and UNCTAD/ECDC/228 presented to the first session of the Standing Committee.

13/ See, on "open regionalism", ECLAC, Open regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, 1994. The similarity between "open regionalism" and "open and flexible ECDC" should not mask differences in the concepts. The latter can be sectoral and project-based. Consequently, it has no necessary geographic confines or institutional pertinence and, because of that, it is typically demand-driven.

14/ See also para. 36 below.

15/ See DPI Press Release Dev/2047 of 12 December 1994: this five-day Forum was jointly organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Coalition for Africa and the Government of Japan.

16/ Ibid.

17/ The Challenge to the South. The Report of the South Commission, Oxford University Press, 1990.

18/ See General Assembly resolution 48/164 of 21 December 1993, entitled "Follow-up to the report of the South Commission".

19/ Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 June 1994 on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Group.

20/ See Ministerial Declaration (G-77/MM(XVIII)/94/DEC), Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, New York, 30 September 1994.

21/ See General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 12 December 1994, entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".

22/ See the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly on 27 September 1994.

23/ Agreed conclusions of the second session of the Standing Committee on ECDC (TD/B/41(2)/7, annex I), para. 3.

24/ Ibid., paras. 4-7.

25/ See "Report of the Standing Committee on ECDC on its second session (TD/B/CN.3/11), para. 13.

26/ See Le Monde, 18-19 December 1994, under the caption: "The Mercosur Accord signed by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay - the Southern American Cone creates a common market of 200 million persons". Mercosur: Southern Cone Market took effect from 1 January 1995, establishing a free trade area in the Southern Cone with a market size of around nearly US$ 11 billion in 1994.

27/ See "Exchange of experiences among groupings of developing countries: An evaluation of the ASEAN experience", Report by the UNCTAD secretariat (UNCTAD/ECDC/331), 25 September 1992.

28/ Also called "the Summit Level Group of Developing Countries", established at the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit meeting, Belgrade, May 1989.

29/ See booklet "The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries, Group of Fifteen", January 1991.

30/ See Malaysia International Trade and Industry Report, 1994: South-South Cooperation, p. 102.

31/ Ibid.

32/ In the past, the GATT scrutiny of preferential arrangements has traditionally been quite rigorous. So far, out of numerous preferential trading arrangements notified to the GATT, only a few have been deemed by consensus to be in conformity with GATT. Of all GATT articles, Article XXIV is known to have been one of the most abused ones. (See Patterson, Implications of the GATT and the World Trading System in Free Trade Areas and US Trade Policy, Institute for International Economics, Washington, DC, 1989.)

33/ See Report of the Standing Committee on ECDC on its second session (TD/B/CN.3/11), para. 6.

34/ See also "Regional, subregional and interregional economic cooperation and integration among developing countries: exchange of experiences among groupings of developing countries: An evaluation of the ASEAN experience, Report by the UNCTAD secretariat" (UNCTAD/ECDC/331). That report discussed at length the mechanism of "dialogue partnership" between ASEAN and its several donors, including EEC, the United States, Canada and others.

35/ See "Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries on its second session" (TD/B/CN.3/11), annex I, appendix, on "Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, which met in Geneva, 27 June to 1 July 1994".

36/ See document TD/B/CN.3/13.

37/ See "The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries, Group of 15", by Technical Support Facility, Summit Level Group of Developing Countries, Geneva, Switzerland (January 1991).

38/ See Statement of Director General of UNIDO for ACC Forum, Vienna, Austria, March 1995.

Annex

A. Policy level and background documentation provided by the UNCTAD secretariat in connection with the Work Programme of the Standing Committee on ECDC

1. Documents submitted to the first session of the Standing Committee on ECDC

(i) Policy documents

1. "Issues for consideration in the establishment of the work programme: note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/CN.3/2)

2. "Review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries: report by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/CN.3/3)

(ii) Background documents

3. "Regional and subregional economic integration and cooperation among developing countries: adjusting to changing realities: the African case, report by the UNCTAD secretariat" (UNCTAD/ECDC/228)

4. "Report of the expert group meeting on regional and subregional economic integration and cooperation among developing countries" (UNCTAD/ECDC/229)

5. "Report of the United Nations Chitose Forum on South-South Economic Cooperation with particular reference to Asia and the Pacific" (UNCTAD/ECDC/231)

6. "Regionalization and integration into the world economy in the 1990s: the Latin American experience in trade, monetary and financial cooperation" (UNCTAD/ECDC/234)

7. "Regional, subregional and interregional economic cooperation and integration among developing countries: exchange of experiences among groupings of developing countries: an evaluation of the ASEAN experience, report by the UNCTAD secretariat" (UNCTAD/ECDC/331)

2. Documents submitted to the second session of the Standing Committee on ECDC

(i) Policy documents

1. "Strengthening subregional and regional integration and fostering interregional cooperation, as well as promotion and expansion of trade among developing countries, report by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/CN.3/8)

2. "Review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support, assistance and skill development, report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/CN.3/9 and Add.1)

3. "Review of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support, assistance and skill development, note by the UNCTAD secretariat", (TD/B/CN.3/Misc.2)

3. Documents being submitted to the third session of the Standing Committee on ECDC

(i) Policy documents

1. "Enlarging and deepening monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries and promoting cooperation of the enterprise sectors of developing countries" (TD/B/CN.3/13).

2. "Evaluation of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including implications of the Uruguay Round results on ECDC arrangements and regular consultations, technical support, assistance and skill development" (TD/B/CN.3/14).

3. "Review of the Work Programme of the Standing Committee on ECDC, with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX" (TD/B/CN.3/15).

(ii) Background documents

4. Country Study on Malaysia (UNCTAD/ECDC/247)

5. Country Study on Venezuela (UNCTAD/ECDC/248)

6. Country Study on Zimbabwe (UNCTAD/ECDC/249)

4. Reports submitted to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on ECDC

1. "Review and analysis of the development objectives and external assistance requirements of ECDC participants" (TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/2 and Corr.1)

2. "Scope and features of the subregional, regional and interregional components of development assistance programmes of the donor community" (TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/3)

3. "Preliminary suggestions regarding the improvement of the scope and effectiveness of subregional, regional and interregional components of development assistance programmes of the donor community" (TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/4)

4. Written contributions submitted by countries or by organizations (TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/Misc 1 to 14).

B. Other background and technical assistance documents prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat following the establishment of the work programme

1. "Regionalization and integration into the world economy in the 1990s: the Latin American experience in trade, monetary and financial cooperation" (UNCTAD/ECDC/234)

2. "Institutional cooperation among African and Latin American clearing and payments arrangements" (UNCTAD/ECDC/237)

3. "Clearing and payments arrangements among developing countries: recent developments, long-term policy considerations" (UNCTAD/ECDC/238)

4. "Review and prospects of monetary and financial cooperation between African and Latin American countries" (UNCTAD/ECDC/239)

5. "Analysis of trade and trade strategies among developing countries with a view to identifying potential areas of trade expansion and promoting and facilitating current trade among developing countries" (UNCTAD/ECDC/242)

6. "Impediments and disincentives to trade among developing countries: a survey" (UNCTAD/ECDC/244)

7. "Report of the eighth session of the Coordination Committee on Multilateral Payments Arrangements and Monetary Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, from 28 February to 1 March 1994" (UNCTAD/ECDC/245)

8. "The role of regional capital markets in enhancing resource mobilization and in promoting their efficient use: case studies on current initiatives and their policy implications" (UNCTAD/ECDC/246)

9. "The Asian Clearing Union: an assessment and prospects" paper prepared by Professor Ercan Uygur and for, and in collaboration with, the Division for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries and Special Programmes.

10. "Development and international economic cooperation: Developments pertaining to the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the South Commission with special emphasis on South-South economic cooperation" (A/48/350). This report, constituting a document for the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, was prepared at the request of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Additionally, it substituted for a report planned for 1992-1993 entitled "South-South cooperation: Examination of trade, monetary and financial cooperation"

11. "Handbook of economic integration and cooperation groupings" (Vol. 1). This publication is expected to be released in the second quarter of 1995.

12. "Technological cooperation among developing countries: an examination of selected aspects" (preliminary version), Geneva, 28 October 1994 (UNCTAD/ECDC/Misc.127).

13. "Considerations regarding the evolution and impact of biotechnologies, with particular reference to developing countries", Geneva, 28 October 1994 (UNCTAD/ECDC/Misc.128).

14. "Regional workshop on R & D community - enterprise cooperation in technological research and commercialization/application of results: Introductory notes", Geneva, 29 October 1994 (UNCTAD/ECDC/Misc.129).